

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-7. (Canceled).

8. (Previously Presented) In a server computer system communicatively coupled to the Internet, a method for providing a user with Web-based information associated with program content viewable on a television, said method comprising:

a) receiving information at said server computer system via the Internet, said information comprising a channel number that identifies program content that is being received by at a television from a broadcaster, said channel number identified by a set top box coupled to said television and to the Internet, said channel number sent to said server computer system from said set top box;

b) identifying at said server computer system a set of Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) for Web sites associated with said channel number; and

c) communicating one or more of said URLs from said server computer system to a computer system that is communicatively coupled to said server computer system via the Internet, wherein said server computer system uses information in a user profile to screen said set of URLs and to select from said set of URLs said one or more URLs that are communicated to said computer system;

wherein said one or more URLs are stored at said computer system separately from said program content such that said one or more URLs are retrievable from said computer system without accessing said program content, wherein said identifying and communicating are performed automatically without user intervention; and

wherein said program content is displayed on said television and Web-based information associated with said set of URLs is retrieved and displayed separately on said computer system.

9. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 8 wherein said step b) further comprises:

b1) said server computer system selecting from said set of URLs a subset of URLs of particular interest to a user.

10. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 9 wherein said step b1) comprises said server computer system:

comparing characteristics describing each URL in said set of URLs with user-specified characteristics in said user profile;

identifying a subset of said set of URLs, said subset satisfying said user-specified characteristics; and

storing said subset of URLs but not the entire said set of URLs.

11. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 10 further comprising:

monitoring URLs selected by said user; and

adding characteristics describing said URLs selected by said user to said user profile.

12. (Canceled).

13. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 8 wherein said one or more URLs are communicated from said server computer system to said computer system via said set top box.

14-43. (Canceled).

44. (New) A server computer system communicatively coupled to the Internet, said server computer system comprising:

a processor; and

a memory unit coupled to said processor, said memory unit containing instructions that when executed implement a computer-implemented method providing a user with Web-based information associated with program content viewable on a television, said method comprising:

a) receiving information at said server computer system via the Internet, said information comprising a channel number that identifies program content that is being received by at a television from a broadcaster, said channel number identified by a set top box coupled to said television and to the Internet, said channel number sent to said server computer system from said set top box;

b) identifying at said server computer system a set of Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) for Web sites associated with said channel number; and

c) communicating one or more of said URLs from said server computer system to a computer system that is communicatively coupled to said server computer system via the Internet, wherein said server computer system uses information in a user profile to screen said set of URLs and to select from said set of URLs said one or more URLs that are communicated to said computer system;

wherein said one or more URLs are stored at said computer system separately from said program content such that said one or more URLs are retrievable from said computer system without accessing said program content, wherein said identifying and communicating are performed automatically without user intervention; and

wherein said program content is displayed on said television and Web-based information associated with said set of URLs is retrieved and displayed separately on said computer system.

45. (New) The server computer system of Claim 44 wherein said step b) of said method further comprises:

b1) said server computer system selecting from said set of URLs a subset of URLs of particular interest to a user.

46. (New) The server computer system of Claim 45 wherein said step b) of said method further comprises:

comparing characteristics describing each URL in said set of URLs with user-specified characteristics in said user profile;

identifying a subset of said set of URLs, said subset satisfying said user-specified characteristics; and

storing said subset of URLs but not the entire said set of URLs.

47. (New) The server computer system of Claim 46 wherein said step b) of said method further comprises:

monitoring URLs selected by said user; and

adding characteristics describing said URLs selected by said user to said user profile.

48. (New) The server computer system of Claim 44 wherein said one or more URLs are communicated from said server computer system to said computer system via said set top box.

49. (New) A computer-usable medium having computer-readable program code embodied therein for causing a server computer system communicatively coupled to the Internet to perform a method for providing a user with Web-based information associated with program content viewable on a television, said method comprising:

a) receiving information at said server computer system via the Internet, said information comprising a channel number that identifies program content that is being received by at a television from a broadcaster, said channel number identified by a set top box coupled to said television and to the Internet, said channel number sent to said server computer system from said set top box;

b) identifying at said server computer system a set of Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) for Web sites associated with said channel number; and

c) communicating one or more of said URLs from said server computer system to a computer system that is communicatively coupled to said server computer system via the Internet, wherein said server computer system uses information in a user profile to screen said set of URLs and to select from said set of URLs said one or more URLs that are communicated to said computer system;

wherein said one or more URLs are stored at said computer system separately from said program content such that said one or more URLs are retrievable from said computer system without accessing said program content, wherein said identifying and communicating are performed automatically without user intervention; and

wherein said program content is displayed on said television and Web-based information associated with said set of URLs is retrieved and displayed separately on said computer system.

50. (New) The computer-usable medium of Claim 49 wherein said step b) of said method further comprises:

b1) said server computer system selecting from said set of URLs a subset of URLs of particular interest to a user.

51. (New) The computer-usable medium of Claim 50 wherein said step b) of said method further comprises:

comparing characteristics describing each URL in said set of URLs with user-specified characteristics in said user profile;

identifying a subset of said set of URLs, said subset satisfying said user-specified characteristics; and

storing said subset of URLs but not the entire said set of URLs.

52. (New) The computer-usable medium of Claim 51 wherein said step b) of said method further comprises:

monitoring URLs selected by said user; and

adding characteristics describing said URLs selected by said user to said user profile.

53. (New) The computer-usable medium of Claim 49 wherein said one or more URLs are communicated from said server computer system to said computer system via said set top box.